



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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USDA TO SURVEY MACHINERY CUSTOM RATES FOR 2016 IN PENNSYLVANIA

HARRISBURG, PA – What will the cost be to plant or harvest in 2016? The Pennsylvania's 2016 Machinery Custom Rates Survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, will survey approximately 2,300 Pennsylvania's farmers to determine the prevailing custom rates for the upcoming growing season.

"The Custom Rates publication, used by many farmers, custom service providers, extension agents and Farm Service Agents, is one of the most highly requested publications that our office releases. ," said NASS' Northeastern Regional Director King Whetstone.

NASS will mail the survey questionnaire in March, asking producers to provide information about the expected rates for field work in the 2016 growing season. NASS encourages producers to respond by mail. Those producers who do not respond by the deadline may be contacted for a telephone interview.

NASS will compile and analyze the survey information and publish the results in the annual *Pennsylvania Machinery Custom Rates* report to be released in mid-April.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential, as required by federal law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified. These and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/. For more information call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at 1-800-498-1518.

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